

their annuities until the approval of Public Law 85-465 in 1958. Health benefits have also been denied to persons retired from particular agencies (such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and Farm Credit Administration) on legal technicalities.

We recommend legislation to extend benefits under the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Act to all forgotten widows who first received annuities under Public Law 85-465, and to all others receiving annuities based on at least 12 years of service which terminated with an immediate annuity prior to July 1, 1960.

4. CREDITING LONG SERVICE

Since July 12, 1960, employees who continued in service and made contributions to the retirement fund after they had accumulated enough service to earn the maximum annuity, have received credit for such contributions to purchase additional annuities, thus giving them more than the maximum basic annuity. There are many annuitants who retired before April 1, 1948, with service in excess of 35 years who received no credit for such excess service and contributions. There are many other annuitants who retired before July 12, 1960, who received no credit for contributions beyond the time during which they earned maximum annuities.

We favor an amendment to the retirement laws to require the recomputation of annuities of persons retired before July 12, 1960, who had rendered service and made contributions to the fund after completing the service on which their annuities were based, to bring about annuity increases under a formula of one-half the ratio of such excess service to the service on which their present annuities are based.

5. DISABILITY ANNUITY FLOOR

Disability retirement is a double calamity inflicted by loss of employment forced by loss of capacity to work. This hardship is more humanely recognized in Public Law 84-854, by a disability annuity floor equal to the annuity that could be earned by service to age 60, or 40 percent of the average salary, whichever is less, but this recognition is restricted to persons retired since October 1, 1956.

We favor extension of this annuity floor of the annuity which would have been earned by service to age 60, or 40 percent of the average salary, whichever is less, to annuitants retired prior to October 1, 1956.

6. AVAILABILITY OF RETIREMENT FUND

The retirement fund was established for the purpose of paying benefits under the civil service retirement system, but a provision in Public Law 85-844, approved August 28, 1958, forbids the use of this fund for paying any increase in benefits voted thereafter by Congress. This is an unnecessary restriction and should be removed.

We favor legislation to clarify the fact that the retirement fund was established to pay retirement benefits and to remove any restrictions in such use.

7. POSTAL RATE ADVANTAGES

All labor unions and many other nonprofit associations are enjoying preferential bulk mailing rates under Federal postal laws. Our association headquarters and many of our chapters have been denied this privilege.

We will continue our efforts to obtain postal rate privileges equivalent to those granted labor unions and other nonprofit organizations.

8. PANAMA CANAL CONSTRUCTION ANNUITIES

Civilian workers recruited for service in the Panama Canal Zone during the period of the construction of the canal were promised that all who remained a full period of 2 years would share in the rewards for such service. A generation later, when annuities were

awarded on the basis of such service, those with 2 years but less than 3 years service were excluded from the benefits.

We support the request of Panama Canal construction workers that Congress now redeem the promise to them by granting annuities to 2-year service persons (about 75 survivors) for the remaining portions of their lives.

9. GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Group life insurance retained after retirement is a very important benefit, and should not be subject to the present rapid depreciation in value at the rate of 2 percent per month until only a fourth of the original amount remains.

We will continue to urge legislation to cut the reduction rate of group life insurance to 1 percent per month and halt the reduction when it has reached 50 percent of the original value.

10. PRICE-FIXING LAWS

Numerous campaigns are underway to enact legislation to authorize price fixing by manufacturers and distributors of food, medicine, and other products needed by annuitants. Sometimes such legislation is disguised as a scheme for the protection of trademarked brands, or as a fair-trade proposal, but the real purpose is to enlist the aid of Federal and State courts in forcing retailers to charge us more money for the necessities of life. Our annuity dollars are too precious to be cheapened by legalizing such price-fixing practices.

We urge all annuitants to be alert to laws proposed in our Congress and in our State legislatures which would enable manufacturers and distributors to use our courts to enforce higher prices of food, medicine, and other products necessary for the preservation of life.

11. SOCIAL SECURITY

Many civil service annuitants are also beneficiaries under the social security retirement system, and are interested in social security legislation. We will keep alert to legislative proposals to modify or liberalize social security benefits. At the same time we will honor mandates of numerous conventions and oppose any and all efforts that might have a tendency to combine benefits under the civil service retirement system with those in the social security retirement system.

12. VETERAN BENEFITS

Civil service annuitants who have had military service should have the same opportunity to qualify for pensions and other veteran benefits as annuitants under any other retirement system. We are distressed to learn of a number of cases where the recent small increases in civil service annuities will rob the recipients of greater amounts in veteran pensions. This is not the fault of retirement laws, but is a consequence of restrictions in veteran benefit laws.

While we do not plan to sponsor any legislation in the field of veteran benefits, we will be alert to legislative proposals advanced by others and we will use every reasonable opportunity to present the viewpoints of our members and other civil service annuitants concerning such proposals.

U.S. MUST HAVE PROMPT LEADERSHIP IN CUBAN SITUATION

(Mr. ROGERS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the demands for U.S. leadership in the Cuban situation are mount-

ing. Almost daily there are speeches delivered on the floors of both the House and Senate calling for another decisive step to be taken to hasten Castro's downfall. Congressional offices bulge under the deluge of constituents' mail urging additional positive expressions of U.S. leadership in meeting the Communist threat in the Caribbean.

Not only are calls for leadership heard in the Congress and across the Nation but Latin America also reverberates with vocal impatience over U.S. inaction. Just last week, on Thursday, January 31, the Chairman of the Council of the Organization of American States, Dr. Facio of Costa Rica, delivered a speech in Washington calling for the United States to take the lead in the inter-American community. The OAS leader said that the Latin American nations have "but the role of a chorus" in obtaining action on Cuba. However, citing Latin cooperation and enthusiasm for the United States, Dr. Facio stated:

But a chorus may sing with vigor . . . and offer solidarity in pursuing the success of the common enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, the time is ripe for a positive act of U.S. leadership. The American people are ready. The Organizations of American States is waiting to support U.S. initiative.

I was gratified to see that Secretary of State Rusk announced Friday that the OAS had under consideration several of the recommendations I had formerly made that the United States formally propose for adoption. Those recommendations now under study are the ban on the movement of Castro agents throughout Latin America, and the freezing of Cuban Government funds now on deposit in Latin American financial institutions.

I would again like to urge that the United States propose the other recommendations I called for; namely, that the nations of this hemisphere ban relay of telecommunications to and from Cuba, close the seaports of Latin America to vessels calling in Cuba, and close the airports of this hemisphere to airlines engaging in flights to and from Cuba.

Adoption of these recommendations by the OAS would result in effective solitary confinement of Cuban communism in the Americas.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT BENEFITS

(Mr. MILLIKEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLIKEN. Mr. Speaker, I have today reintroduced legislation to strengthen the adequacy of our Social Security Act by increasing the opportunities that social security beneficiaries will have for performing work without losing their entitlement to social security benefits.

Specifically, my bill would change the retirement test so that instead of beginning to lose benefits when earnings exceed \$1,200 a year, as is the case under

All over

present law, my bill would provide that a person could earn up to \$1,800 per year without loss of benefits. In addition, the legislative proposal I have sponsored would provide that an individual would not lose benefits for any month in which he had earnings of less than \$150. As a final feature of my bill for earnings over \$1,800 up to \$2,400, beneficiaries would only lose 50 cents of benefits for every \$1 of earnings.

Mr. Speaker, this meritorious liberalization of our Social Security Act is in my judgment in realistic conformity with the facts of present-day living. Our senior citizens are not for the most part interested in completely severing their ties with gainful occupations just because they have reached age 65. Many of them would like an opportunity to continue working on a reduced basis during their late sixties. This will would help accomplish that objective of a phasing out process between full employment and full retirement. It is estimated that upwards of one-half a million beneficiaries would be helped by the change I have proposed in my bill.

While I realize that enactment of the legislation might cause the Government to lose some revenue, I feel that this is the opportune time to bring it to the attention of the Committee on Ways and Means so that they may take it into consideration when writing a final tax bill in line with the administration's tax proposals. It is my understanding that the administration wants to accomplish the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and I feel that passage of my bill is most important to a great number of our citizens.

JOINT RESOLUTION ON CUBA

(Mr. JOHANSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I opposed the joint resolution on Cuba adopted by this House last September 26. I believed it was a trumpet giving an uncertain sound.

I believe that events since then have fully and tragically confirmed this estimate.

I unqualifiedly supported the seemingly strong stand taken by the President October 22. I regret that that strong stand was so soon abandoned.

Six days later on October 28, I expressed the grave concern that our willingness to offer a no-invasion pledge may have "only postponed the decisive showdown." I warned that "we may even have out-Muniched Munich."

Everything that has happened since, and the hard-to-come-by disclosures regarding the situation today, confirm this warning.

During the debate on the Cuban resolution last September, I said:

If we believe that what has happened and is happening in Cuba is already far too much, let us forswear the madana policy of endless postponement, of waiting for still direr happenings, and let us call a halt now.

If it is in fact our determination to launch the sequence of successive actions to end this

(Soviet) incursion, to free Cuba from its thralldom, to make secure our shores and hemisphere—let us empower and command such actions.

I believe this injunction is far more imperative today than it was on September 26, 1962.

I believe such a commitment is more imperative now than then from the standpoint of national and hemisphere security.

I believe that an expression of determination on this score reflects more faithfully the overwhelming sentiment of the American people now than it did then.

Accordingly, I have today introduced the following House joint resolution "expressing the determination of the United States with respect to the situation in Cuba" and authorizing action by the President:

H.J. Res. 220

Joint resolution expressing the determination of the United States with respect to the situation in Cuba

Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States is determined to take, jointly with other free nations or unilaterally, such political, diplomatic, economic, and military action as may be necessary:

(1) To secure removal, and thereafter to bar, from Cuba, all Soviet or other foreign Communist military forces, both personnel and equipment;

(2) To liberate Cuba from its present Marxist-Leninist regime;

(3) To neutralize Cuba as a base for Communist subversion, infiltration, sabotage, and aggression in the Western Hemisphere;

(4) To assist the liberated people of Cuba in achieving representative, constitutional government established through free elections; and

(5) To exercise such on-site inspection and supervision as may be required to accomplish these purposes. Be it further

Resolved, That the President is hereby authorized and empowered to implement and execute the policy set forth in this joint resolution.

MRS. CLARE BOOTHE LUCE ANALYZES RECENT CUBAN AND FRENCH SITUATION

(Mr. STINSON asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include an article from the Sunday Star.)

Mr. STINSON. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished former Congresswoman and Ambassador from Connecticut, Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, wrote an article on U.S. foreign policy that appeared in yesterday's Sunday Star. This article presents an interesting analysis of our recent actions concerning Cuba and France:

POINT OF VIEW—DE GAULLE UPHELD ON NUCLEAR STAND

(By Clare Boothe Luce)

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—The President was asked in the last press conference what he thought of the theory put forward in Europe that the outcome of the Cuban crisis was linked in General de Gaulle's mind with his determination to have his own nuclear deterrent force, because Cuba showed that the United States would not defend Europe.

The President replied that this charge had indeed been directly made, and he indicated

that some Europeans had deduced from the fact that the naval blockade had ended with Moscow in unchallenged control of Cuba, that "since the Soviet developed their own nuclear capacity there is a balance between (the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.) and neither would use it, and therefore Europe cannot rely on the United States." This he called "peculiar logic."

But after Cuba not only some, in some parts of Europe but also many in many parts of America, and in Latin America, no longer believe in U.S. commitment to defend other countries from communism, if to do so should mean to initiate a nuclear war with Soviet Russia.

And, the President's remarks notwithstanding, there is much recent evidence that Mr. Khrushchev himself is now thoroughly convinced that once the 600,000 American troops in Germany are withdrawn, America's nuclear commitment will then extend no farther than its own coastline.

KHRUSHCHEV ASSUMES ROLE

If memory serves, after the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion, Mr. Kennedy repeatedly warned Mr. Khrushchev that communism in this hemisphere was "not negotiable." Mr. Khrushchev, strongly suspecting that this warning was merely for U.S. domestic political consumption, boldly seized the opportunity to put it to the acid test: Fully aware that he would be detected in the end, he sneaked nuclear weapons into Cuba, and zeroed them in on the White House.

When the President found this out, quite a long while after Cuban intelligence sources had told him it was happening, his reaction was immediate. He called out the Navy, which called Mr. Khrushchev's brilliantly and carefully calculated bluff.

This was probably precisely what Mr. Khrushchev intended. Mr. Khrushchev had long been in the position of having to lose his face in order to save it. He wanted to lose his ugly nuclear mug—the face of the nuclear aggressor. He was anxious to show the world that he was not the man to start a nuclear war against anybody over a third country, and he certainly wanted to have it made plain that Mr. Kennedy wasn't the man either. A solid basis for negotiations of all kinds, and popular fronts of all kinds, could be built on the foundations of a United States of America-U.S.S.R. nuclear peace pact.

One can only imagine Mr. Khrushchev's satisfaction when his theory vis-a-vis the United States of America military position was proven correct. But he could hardly have been prepared for the next surprise. No sooner had he agreed to remove all the nuclear hardware U.S. air surveillance had spotted, then Mr. Kennedy at once referred to him as a "great statesman" and, to show that there needn't be any hard feelings over the little episode, gave him Cuba.

KHRUSHCHEV REPEATS THREAT

Mr. Khrushchev did not naturally bother to return the President's compliment. He realized, of course, that it had been made to gentle him. (Mr. Khrushchev is as easy to gentle as a King cobra.) A few weeks later at the East Berlin World Communist Congress Mr. Khrushchev was bragging to the world that his missile play in Cuba had achieved its real objective, to scare Mr. Kennedy into giving up Cuba. After accepting the thunderous applause of the 2,500 Communist Party delegates present from 70 nations, Mr. Khrushchev vowed all over again to "bury us," this time with his 100-megaton bombs, but only if we were ever so rash as to initiate a nuclear attack on him.

Ever since Cuba, Mr. Khrushchev has worked hard on his new image. Each passing day he sounds more and more like John Foster Dulles: He will never launch missiles at the United States of America, or Europe.